completed the projects. As per the utilization certificates/proposals received during the current year, there was no pendency in the projects for which funds were released during 2004-05.

Prohibition

†767. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have been propagating for prohibition in the country following the ideology of the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that recently Government have written letters to the Chief Secretaries of all the States requesting them to encourage people in the country to drink alcohol, reduce the registration fee for wine factories and make wine available in super market etc; and

(c) if so, whether Government have abandoned the ideology of the Father of Nation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) Government is propagating for prohibition of consumption of intoxicating drinks following the Directive Principles as enshrined in the Constitution of India. The Ministry is implementing the scheme for prevention of alcoholism and substance abuse through voluntary organisations for providing counselling, preventive awareness, treatment and rehabilitation of persons addicted to alcoholism.

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

Committee on status of Muslims

768. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have constituted a committee to prepare a factual report on the social, economic and educational status of the Muslim community;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the time frame set for submission of the report;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether Government propose to set up similar committees in respect of other religious entities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A 7 Member Committee has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Justice Rajender Sachar which will finalize its report within 15 months w.e.f. the date of its notification *i.e.* 9th March, 2005.

(c) There is no such proposal at present.

(d) Does not arise.

Orthopaedic aids

769. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up more maufacturing units for making orthopaedic aids like wheel-chairs, etc;

(b) whether it is a fact that very old model and archaic wheel chairs and other equipments are still being produced in the country;

(c) the steps that would be taken to ensure that State-of-the art orthopaedic aids and equipment are made in the country;

(d) how Government would bring out this change in a short time; and

(e) the steps proposed to modernize this sector in the interest for the physically challenged people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) No approval of the Government is required for manufacture of wheel chairs or other equipments. Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Company, Kanpur (ALIMCO) is a Public Sector Undertaking under Government of India which produces orthopaedic aids including wheel chairs and tricycles. The products being manufactured by ALIMCO are ISI marked.